

CRANES

Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability

On behalf of its member organizations and individuals, advocating collaboratively for the environment of the South Central Wisconsin region (eight counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock and Sauk) toward a high quality of life; an ecologically sustainable and just culture; and, the celebration of the beauty of this place, both natural and built.

VISION

The Capital area's environment, including water, land, and air resources, will be conserved or restored to ensure the region's quality of life and the beauty of this special place, for all who live or visit here, now and in the future.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

*Earth/Art® Resources
Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy
League of Women Voters ~ Dane County
Madison Audubon Society
Sierra Club ~ Four Lakes Group
W. Dane Coalition for Smart Growth & Environment
West Waubesa Preservation Coalition*

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2 October 2013

Dane County Planning
ATTN: Brian Standing
Senior Planner
City County Building, Room 116
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

standing@countyofdane.com
(608) 267- 4115

Dear Mr. Standing:

The *Capital Region Advocacy Network for Environmental Sustainability* (CRANES) would like to submit some items for addition to the Dane County Comprehensive Plan, as part of the five-year review.

Please see the pages below. As best possible, we have matched the DANE 2100 proposals of CRANES to the three of the six themes that the Planning and Development Department staff has identified as having emerged since the Dane County Comprehensive Plan's adoption in 2007.

We appreciate your offer to edit these DANE 2100 items, so that the language is appropriate, prior to submission to the Dane County Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

Because of the heritage landscapes emphasis, we request that the Eco-Cultural planning item be located with Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources elements (ECANR) envisioned by the Smart Growth law, along with the other Cultural items currently under Economic (HED) element.

Sincerely,



Caryl Terrell
Secretary



Jon Becker
Vice-President

for the
CRANES Board of Directors

1. Sustainability & Climate Change

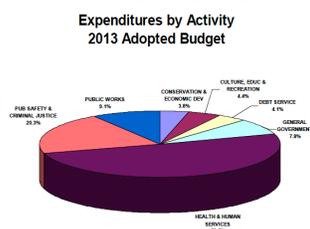
Build energy stability and independence, while eliminating air pollution including greenhouse gasses, for all county residences and businesses:

- *Inventory emissions sources (GHGs, CPs, and MATS) using ICLEI protocols*
- *Inventory conservation/efficiency opportunities and renewable energy resources*
- *Create a trail map (a.k.a., action plan or road map)*
- *Call a parley to implement the plan using benchmarks and goals*
- *Invest in the plan for long-term savings that benefit residents and businesses, emphasizing conservation/ efficiency and distributed renewable power generation*

Require all new buildings to be carbon-neutral (or net-carbon-reduction) and solar-ready.

Consider support of a no-fare, renewable-energy-fueled transit system, using BRT, local rail, etc..

Provide an analysis of the FY13 budget, showing what percentage was spent on Environment (rather than combining Conservation and Economic Development, as was the case last year (see figure below). This analysis would become the baseline for future spending that better reflects the importance of the environment and ecosystem services in Dane County, as well as the related economic sectors of outdoor recreation, tourism, and agriculture. Future spending should match our determination to respond to major 21st century environmental threats, especially climate disruption and the requisite transition from imported fossil fuels to locally produced renewable fuels. Other major threats include: loss of habitat and species diversity; urban sprawl and farmland loss; water quality degradation; and, air pollution.



Capital	
\$400,000	Photo-voltaic system, large-scale array, akin to the previous airport installation.
Operations	
\$20,000	DANE HEALTHY SKIES - PHASE I: (A) Inventory of air pollutants; (B) Inventory of conservation/efficiency opportunities and renewable energy resources.
\$15,000	DANE HEALTHY SKIES PHASE II: Climate Action Trail Map (strategic plan)
TBD	Provide Dane County staff coordination (est. 80 hrs for Inventories & Climate Action Trail Map; est. 80-100 hrs for Trail Map tech review, metrics work with UW Civil Engineering, and partnering with CRANES to organize a Climate Disruption Parley in WINTER/SPRING 2014).
\$ 400,000	Carry out a state-of-the-art scenario and refill/infill analysis of Dane County, completing work in 9 months, while assuring connection with (and benefits from) efforts already underway in other states and countries (e.g., Urban Footprint, with State of CA, UC system, and China).
=/< \$ 503,125	Citizen scenario and issues survey, using stratified random sampling for valid and reliable results countywide, as well as for each of the 61 municipalities in Dane County. Include demographic analyses according to U.S. census protocols.
\$ 25,000	Do Fiscal Impact analysis of FY13 BUILD scenario demo project (e.g., RapidFire)
\$ 200,000 <u>annually</u>	BUILD program, incentivizing refill/infill opportunities, as informed by results of all-county scenario analysis. Emphasize climate protection, energy conservation/efficiency, and renewable energy, including urban eco-corridor green-infrastructure.
\$100,000	Partner with CRANES to proceed with CLEAN MOU II. Use backcasting to explore potential restoration insofar as possible of the Yahara lakes ecological system to "natural" (pre-European development) conditions. Includes funding of a pilot program in the Lake Mendota environs, including 1) a "best case" scenario for the lake's ecosystem, based on current research; 2) leadership-team training by experts in eco-cultural commerce; 3) a public participation plan; and, 4) an action plan using backcasting approaches to foster eco-entrepreneurialism and achieve a more natural Lake Mendota in 1-3 generations. If successful, would then be adjusted as necessary for replication down the entire Yahara watershed chain of lakes.
TBD	Partner with Madison Metropolitan Sewage District and the county's cities, villages, and towns to create an all-county program incentivizing government, institutional, residential, and commercial purchase of replacement state-of-the-art water softeners that reduce salt use, while also reducing energy use.
TBD	Provide/add Planning Staff resources as needed for the above initiatives.

2. Resource Protection Corridors

Using modern ecological research, revisit decisions and compromises made in the 19th and 20th centuries about shorelines, lake levels, public lands, and the public's experience of the lands and waters in which we have invested.

Restore wetlands to historic extents insofar as possible. Adopt Ultimate Management Practices (UMPs), that allow restoration of natural hydrological conditions (ground, surface, and evapo-transpirational)–adjusted for adaptation to climate disruption–to be applied in all future development, including infill/refill, redevelopment, or greenfield. Maximize consideration of the beauty and scenic elements of Wisconsin's Public Trust doctrine.

Consider creating a *Dane Rural Heritage Reserve*, protecting the remaining rural 81% of the county from urbanization for at least the next 50 years.

Reconsider current agricultural practices, toward diversifying use of our working lands in ways that are more climate- and watershed-friendly.

Fulfill the 2012 Parks and Open Space Plan (POSP), including the land protection necessary to complete major regional eco-cultural features such as the *Ice Age Trail* and the *Earth Day Heritage Trails & Natural Wildlife Area*, as well as creation of eight large and interconnected Self-sustaining Natural Resource Areas (SNRAs), that provide pre-Original Survey habitat redundancy.

Capital	
\$7,500,000-10,000,000 <u>annually</u>	Dramatically increase annual expenditures on land protection, toward realization of the POSP 2012-17, while targeting SNRAs; nationally significant heritage landscape features such as the <i>Ice Age Trail</i> and the <i>Earth Day Heritage Trails & Natural Wildlife Area</i> ; near-urban areas, stream-scale water quality projects, wetlands restoration in the North Mendota <i>Mississippi River Basin Initiative</i> project area. (This "surge" responds to WI Stewardship Fund reductions and related requirements for hunting/trapping that are sometimes incompatible near Dane County's urban areas or in its near-urban park or natural areas).
\$ 500,000-1,000,000 <u>annually</u>	Dramatically increase spending on wetland restoration and streambank easements to protect wildlife and fisheries, while providing public access whenever possible. Include funding necessary to protect these resources from climate change (e.g., increasing stream shading to prevent thermal shock).
\$6-8,000,000	Partner with the City of Madison to build an eco-landbridge connecting Lake View Hill and Warner parks across Northport and Troy drives, enhancing eco-community and habitat connectivity, public safety, and the economy of the north capital area. See the full NEWT proposal, with illustrations and images, at http://www.CRANESinc.org .
Operations	
TBD	Provide/add Lands & Waters Dept. staff resources for the above surge in land protection/acquisition. [Proportional increase to effectively implement the "surge" in Capital spending above.]
\$85-150,000	Eco-Cultural Plan: Partner with CRANES to create the first cultural plan for Dane County, and make it is one that reflects our environmental heritage: An eco-cultural plan, with a primary focus on protection of heritage landscapes and the potential for economic diversification through cultural, arts, and creative sector activities, including enhanced heritage tourism. Integrate with existing and forthcoming municipal and Overture Center arts or cultural plans. Inventory existing cultural resources (human and built), also performing a gap/opportunity analysis. Create an online cultural map, analyzing the cultural landscape down to the block level (e.g., as was done in Philadelphia), while providing for interactive use by municipalities and citizens (consider inclusion of crowd-sourcing approaches, as has been used in Connecticut). NOTE: The cost estimate range was provided by AMS, the nationally renowned firm that did the City of Madison's arts district plan; however, the low end of the AMS estimate range may not be sufficient to allow for the innovative heritage landscape component proposed by CRANES, or the fine-grained, interactive, and crowd-sourcing ideas.
TBD	Provide/add Planning Staff resources as needed for the above initiatives.

3. Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Capital	
TBD	Partner with the private sector to build one or more EcoVillages demonstrating Living Building and other cutting edge concepts, e.g., as has been done by Tompkins County, NY. However, as opposed to the Tompkins County development, which was built on greenfields, site the EcoVillages on county-owned land in urban areas, so that they are near job centers, transit, and human services. For example, consider the Alliant Energy campus, which also has agricultural activities, acreage, and other resources compatible with likely EcoVillage activities such as urban farming, horse-based transit education and entrepreneurial ventures, etc. To provide maximum exemplar diversity, include the gamut of housing types, from micro-houses/SORs for the currently homeless, to affordable apartments, to market-priced middle-income and upscale multi-family and single-family, with five stories or less.
TBD	Provide/ add Planning Staff resources as needed for the above initiatives.